

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04239 201027Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4029

S E C R E T SEOUL 4239

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS DEFENSE AND JCS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, US  
SUBJECT: ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION DURING CONSULTATIONS

SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF COMPOSITION OF U.S. DELEGATION AND  
THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD OVER THE PAST TEN DAYS, ROKG  
SEEMS TO BE LEANING TOWARDS TAKING A BROAD APPROACH TO  
ISSUE OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL DURING CONSULTATIONS NEXT WEEK.  
THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT ROKG WILL WISH TO HOLD DISCUS-  
SIONS OF DETAILS AS A FOLLOW-ON TO NEXT WEEK'S MEETINGS.  
END SUMMARY.

IN CONVERSATION WITH DCM, GENERAL LEW BYONG HION INDICATED  
MAY 20 THAT ROKG WILL BE INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING NEXT  
WEEK THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

1. RATIONALE FOR TROOP WITHDRAWAL: ROKG WILL BE  
PRESSING FOR THE BASIS UPON WHICH THE DECISION HAS BEEN  
MADE TO WITHDRAW GROUND FORCES. THEY FEEL THEY NEED THIS  
RATIONALE NOT ONLY TO COMPLETE THEIR ANALYSIS OF REQUIRE-  
MENTS, BUT ALSO TO USE IN PUBLIC DOCUMENTS TO ALLAY THE  
FEARS OF THE KOREAN POPULATION.

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2. NORTHEAST POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION. ROKG  
HOPES THAT THE DELEGATION WILL DESCRIBE U.S. VIEWS OF THE  
POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION ON THE PENINSULA AND THE  
RELATIONSHIP OF STABILITY TO THE GENERAL ENVIRONMENT IN  
NORTHEAST ASIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, THEY MAY WELL ASK  
WHAT THOUGHTS USG MIGHT HAVE ON THE UTILITY OF ROKG  
ARMED FORCES IN THE EVENT OF A US-USSR OR US-SINO CONFRONTA-

TION.

3. EXTERNAL SUPPORT. ROKG ASSUMES THAT IT HAS ONLY A LIMITED CAPABILITY TO ENSURE STABILITY OF THE PENINSULA. IT WILL WISH TO HEAR FROM USG WHAT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE SECURITY OF ROK. UNDOUBTEDLY, THE QUESTION OF A NON-AGGRESSION PACT WILL BE RAISED AS WELL AS PAST PROPOSALS FOR FOUR-SIX POWER CONFERENCE.

4. OTHER ISSUES. THE ISSUES OUTLINED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGE (I.E. - HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS, COMPENSATORY U.S. ACTIONS (MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC), FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, OPCON) WILL PROBABLY BE TOUCHED UPON, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO EXPECTATION THAT THERE WILL BE ANY DETAILED DISCUSSION CONCERNING SPECIFIC WEAPONS SYSTEMS OR FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE CAN EXPECT THE ROK, HOWEVER, TO OUTLINE IN GENERAL TERMS THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF MILITARY VULNERABILITIES AND THEIR THINKING ON HOW TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THESE MILITARY GAPS. ROKG WILL ALSO BE ANXIOUS TO KNOW SCHEDULE FOR WITHDRAWAL AND WHEN FIRST ELEMENT OF 2ND DIVISION MIGHT BE WEITHDRAWN.

5. OPCON. THE QUESTION OF OPCON STILL REMAINS VERY HIGH ON THE AGENDA FOR THE ROK MILITARY. THE LATEST FORMULATION SEEMS TO ENCOMPASS THE IDEA OF THE UNC COMMANDER SUPPORTED BY A U.S. MILITARY COMMANDER ON ONE SIDE AND A ROK MILITARY COMMANDER ON THE OTHER. OBVIOUSLY MANY DETAILS STILL HAVE TO BE SPELLED OUT, BUT ROKG WILL  
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BE PUSHING HARD FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SHIFTING OPCON TO A ROK GENERAL.

6. FORCE IMPROVEMENT. WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE PRINCIPLE OF "AUGMENTATION BEFORE WITHDRAWAL" WHICH THE ROKG IS NOW PROPOUNDING. THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD REQUIRE THAT SOME COMPENSATORY ACTIONS BE TAKEN PRIOR TO WITHDRAWAL OF ANY SEGMENT OF U.S. GROUND FORCES, ALTHOUGH AGAIN DETAILS WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT.

7. FOLLOW-ON SCENARIO. FINALLY, ROKG WILL WISH TO OBTAIN SOME IDEAS FROM U.S. CONCERNING STEPS TO BE TAKEN AS A FOLLOW-ON TO NEXT WEEK'S CONSULTATIONS.  
SNEIDER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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**Review Markings:**  
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